

Alumni Columns

SPRING 2020

Northwestern State University Magazine





Dr. Chris Maggio
1985, 1991
President
Northwestern State
University

Dear Alumni:

As I write this, our university, our nation and the world are experiencing an unprecedented public health crisis that has interrupted the normal flow of our spring activities. Everyone we know has been affected and the administration at NSU has worked diligently to provide solutions. Our first priority is the health and safety of the university community. Our second priority is the continuation of learning and the university's mission.

You will read in this edition of Alumni Columns how the year began on a bittersweet note as the Northwestern State family experienced both triumph and loss. In recent months, we celebrated with our fellow alumni at the pinnacle of their professions, and then were knocked off our feet by news of tragedy.

All of these events remind me of how a family comes together when the unexpected happens, whether good or bad.

Despite what may appear to be setbacks, please know that all of the dedicated faculty and staff at NSU are constantly working to find solutions to unexpected challenges and remain flexible in helping members of the NSU family work through issues that have affected us all.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support of Northwestern State University.



Drake Owens
2004, 2005
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement

Dear Alumni:

Although recent events postponed many planned celebrations on campus, there are still many noteworthy milestones to remember in 2020. This year we mark the 50th anniversary of the Arnold R. Kilpatrick President's Residence that opened in 1970 and has been home to seven university presidents and their families. Thirty years ago, in 1990, NSU inducted its first class of Long Purple Line honorees and that tradition continues, annually recognizing outstanding alumni. And to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the release of the Campus Women's Organization cookbook "In Good Taste," that group printed a second edition that is now available to a new generation.

The whirlwind of activity that normally occupies our time during the spring semester was halted, but not before our team members were able to travel around the region hosting recruiting receptions for prospective students. Many of these events took place in the homes of alumni and we are so grateful for their generosity. As has been said before, you, our alumni, are the university's best ambassadors in telling the story of Northwestern and what a special place it is.

Technology makes it easier than ever to keep in touch with old friends and current on the news and events at Northwestern State. Check out our social media channels and be sure to sign up for the Purple Pulse, our eNewsletter. We love your feedback and we thank you again for your continued support of Northwestern State University.



Alumni Columns
Official Publication of
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, Louisiana
Organized in 1884
A member of CASE

Volume XXX Number 1 SPRING 2020
The Alumni Columns (USPS 015480) is published
by Northwestern State University,
Natchitoches, Louisiana, 71497-0002
Periodicals Postage Paid at Natchitoches, La.,
and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the
Alumni Columns, Northwestern State University,
Natchitoches, La. 71497-0002.
Alumni Office Phone: 318-357-4414 and 888-799-6486
FAX: 318-357-4225 • E-mail: owensd@nsula.edu

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2nd Vice President..... Leah Sherman Middlebrook,
Dallas, 1986, 2016
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NSU President..... Dr. Chris Maggio, 1985, 1991
Vice President for External Affairs..... Jerry Pierce, 1961
Assistant Vice President of External Affairs
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Dr. P. Cade Brumley..... New Orleans, 2002
Jerry Brungart..... Natchitoches, 1969, 1971
Tommy Chester..... Natchitoches, 1969
Monty Chicola..... Natchitoches, 1979, 1980
Caron Chester Coleman..... Natchitoches, 2000
Shade Dufrene..... Baton Rouge, 1999, 2003
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LaTasha Gray-Grant..... Mansfield, Texas, 2007
Dr. Hayward Hargrove..... Black Mountain, N.C., 1964
Trey Hill..... Carencro, 1985
Carlos Jones..... Round Rock, Texas, 1993
Emilie King..... Shreveport, 2017
Matt Koury..... Leesville, 1995
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Kim Martin..... Lake Charles, 1988
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Kip Patrick..... Washington, DC, 1995
Michael Prudhomme..... Natchez, 1984
J. Scott Repp..... McKinney, Texas, 1989
Joe Robertson..... DeQuincy, 1990
Mark Spikes..... League City, Texas, 1991
Joseph B. Stamey..... Natchitoches, 1983
Crystal Hemphill Stewart..... Natchitoches, 1997, 2003
Glenn Talbert..... Shreveport, 1964
Taylor Townsend..... Natchitoches, 1986
Marti Vienne..... Natchitoches, 1982
Jim Villard..... Alexandria, 1983

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Jacob Ellis..... Athens, SGA President
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Contributors..... David West
Jason Pugh
Doug Ireland, 1986
Matthew Vines, 2016
Photography..... Chris Reich, 2007, 2009
Josh McDaniel
Design/Layout..... Dahpne Hines, 1982, 1984

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NSU adopts new Mission, Vision and Values Statement

At its February 2020 Board meeting, the Board of Supervisors for Louisiana System approved Northwestern State University's new *Mission, Vision, and Values* statement. The transition from old to new mission statements becomes effective July 1, 2020. The university conducted a deliberate, holistic and thoughtful analysis of its mission, roles and functions in concert with the Louisiana Constitution, Article VIII, 5D (4), Acts 241 of 1987 and 1360 of 1997, the specified tasks per the Board of Regents Master Plan 2011, revised 2012, Northwestern State University Strategic Plan Assessment 2018-2019 – *Building Momentum*, and the 2019 Board of Regents Master Plan, *Louisiana Prospers: Driving Our Talent Imperative*.

The result is a forward-looking mission statement that is inclusive, embraces diversity, anticipates change, and facilitates education access and attainment to better prepare our students to positively impact the socio-economic conditions of the region, state, and nation.

New Mission Statement. Northwestern State University is a responsive, student-oriented institution committed to acquiring, creating, and disseminating knowledge through innovative teaching, research, and service. With its certificate, undergraduate, and graduate programs, Northwestern State University prepares its increasingly diverse student population to contribute to an inclusive global community with a steadfast dedication to improving our region, state, and nation.

Graphic designer Beth Mann to be inducted into CAPA Hall of Fame

Northwestern State University Director of Publications and University Printing **Beth Mann** is the 2019-20 inductee into the Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts Hall of Fame.

Mann, a 1975 graduate in advertising design from NSU, has had a 30-year career in graphic design including the past 17 years at Northwestern State. She was a graphic designer at the Louisiana Technical College in Natchitoches from 1990 to 2003 after 13 years as a floral designer in Natchitoches.

Mann is the 17th alumnus, faculty member, administrator or organization to be recognized in the CAPA Hall of Fame.

"I am really humbled by this honor. I feel I'm here doing my job just like everyone else," said Mann. "I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work for my alma mater doing what I love."

Mann credits many of the faculty she learned from as an undergraduate with preparing her for a successful career.

"I had wonderful art professors that taught me the design knowledge I needed to apply to my employment as a floral designer for 13 years and graphic designer for 30 years," said Mann. "Because of them, I have been able to meet the challenges that I faced in day-to-day expectations with confidence I did not have before attending NSU."

During her career at NSU, Mann has created hundreds of

flyers, brochures, magazines, posters, programs and other publications that enhanced the university's image, promoted upcoming events and aided in marketing and student recruitment.

Many of those programs and posters helped promote plays, concerts, exhibitions and events in the School of Creative and Performing Arts. Her work is evident throughout the halls of

the A.A. Fredericks Center for Creative and Performing Arts.

CAPA Director Scott Burrell said Mann is known for her creativity, diligence and patience when dealing with demanding projects or last-minute requests.

"Beth's skills and talents as a graphic artist are always creative and her designs on our CAPA materials have always been of the highest quality," he said. "She has always been pleasant

and patient, even when we have been a little less than timely on our requests."

Mann was set to retire April 3.



"I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work for my alma mater doing what I love."



This public document was published at a total cost of \$19,788.66. 50,035 copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$19,788.66. The total cost of all printings of this document, including reprints is \$19,788.66. This document was published by Northwestern State University Office of University Advancement and printed by Cenveo Worldwide Limited, 200 First Stamford Place, Stamford, CT 06902 to foster and promote the mutually beneficial relationship between Northwestern State University and its alumni, supporters and community partners. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by state agencies established pursuant to R.S. 43.31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.



Boutté



Marcus



Orgeron

NSU honors 2020 Long Purple Line inductees

Six distinguished Northwestern State University alumni will be inducted into the university's Alumni Hall of Distinction, the Long Purple Line. This year's inductees are state official Sujuan Boutte of Prairieville, businessman Harvey F. Marcus Sr. of Monroe, Louisiana State University Head Football Coach Ed Orgeron of Baton Rouge, NSU Vice President for External Affairs Jerry Pierce, Fed Ex executive John A. Smith of Memphis, Tennessee, and former NSU faculty member Thomas Whitehead of Natchitoches.

The Long Purple Line was established to provide recognition and appreciation to individuals whose career accomplishments or service to their fellow man have enhanced the reputation and prestige of Northwestern State.

Selection may be based upon past or continuing achievements in individuals' careers, exemplary and extraordinary service to community, state and nation or both career accomplishments and service to mankind including service to their alma mater.

A total of 136 Northwestern State alumni have been inducted into the Long Purple Line.

Boutté has a broad range of experience spanning postsecondary financial aid for traditional and non-traditional populations, K-12, higher education, government and private industry. She has held several high-level positions in Louisiana state agencies. Since 2013, she has been executive director of the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, managing an annual budget of almost \$400 million. Boutté provides oversight of statewide college access and financial aid initiatives aimed at promoting, preparing for and providing college access to students and families including the Taylor Opportunity for Students Program (TOPS) and the Louisiana Go Grants. She previously served as the office's deputy executive director, chief operations officer and chief research and planning officer.

Boutté has served as assistant secretary of the Office of Workforce Development and workforce planning executive consultant with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. She was also an education instruction specialist for IBM.

At Northwestern State, Boutté was director and founder of the Technology Training Institute, director of the Office of Public Service and coordinator of non-credit continuing education.

She earned a bachelor's, master's specialist and doctorate at Northwestern State and was a supervising teacher at the NSU Laboratory Schools for 12 years. Boutté was named Natchitoches Parish Elementary School Teacher of the Year, the Natchitoches Kiwanis' Outstanding Young Educator and a Turner Broadcasting National Faculty Member.

Upon graduation from Northwestern State College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in accounting, **Marcus** moved to Monroe. In the summer of 1963, he began his career in public accounting with a local CPA firm. After working for that firm for seven years, he opened his practice in 1970. After about 10 years, he partnered with fellow Northwestern State alumnus John Robinson to form Marcus, Robinson and Hassell which has offices in Monroe and Winnsboro.

Marcus has been involved in a number of successful business ventures throughout Louisiana and Arkansas which include healthcare companies, restaurants, commercial and residential development and management.

Marcus has supported NSU for decades and has served on numerous boards and committees that enhance the university, including the NSU Foundation Board, The Mary R. Gallaspy Trust No. 2 Board and the College of Business and Technology Advisory Board. He has also been honored as a member of the NSU College of Business Hall of Fame.

Marcus is active in state and national professional organizations, including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Louisiana Society of Certified Public Accountants. In 2019, he received the certificate of recognition for 50-years loyal membership in the Louisiana Society of Certified Public Accountants.

He has supported and donated to countless athletic and academic programs at NSU over the years, including establishing a faculty endowed professorship, and joined NSU alumni Bill Tilley, Bill Stokes and Joe Singletary in establishing a four-year endowed scholarship through the NSU Foundation.



Pierce



Smith



Whitehead

Orgeron led LSU to the BCS National Championship and a 15-0 record this past season. He was named National Coach of the Year by Walter Camp, Eddie Robinson and the Associated Press. He was also selected as the SEC Coach of the Year. Orgeron's staff and team included the winner of the 2019 Broyles Award as nation's top assistant coach, the Heisman Trophy winner, winner of the Biletnikoff Award given to the outstanding receiver and the Jim Thorpe Award presented to the top defensive back. LSU set a school-record with five first team All-America selections in 2019. LSU's offensive line claimed the Joe Moore Award as the top offensive line in college football.

Orgeron is LSU's 33rd head football coach, and the first Louisiana native to serve as head coach of the Tigers in more than 30 years. Orgeron has a 40-9 record at LSU. Orgeron was a defensive lineman for the NSU Demons and earned a degree in 1985. His coaching career began as a graduate assistant at Northwestern State and McNeese State. Orgeron was an assistant strength coach at Arkansas then worked as an assistant coach at Miami (Florida), Nicholls, Syracuse and Southern Cal, acquiring a reputation as one of the top defensive line coaches and recruiters in college football. He was head coach at the University of Mississippi for three years, then was on the staff of New Orleans Saints and the University of Tennessee before returning to Southern Cal. Orgeron joined the LSU coaching staff in 2015.

Recruited to Northwestern in 1957 as a football trainer, Pierce was a four-year letterman in that position. As a student, he was an N Club officer and sports editor of the university newspaper.

He joined the staff of The Times-Picayune in New Orleans after receiving his journalism degree in 1961 and became executive sports editor at age 24.

Pierce returned to Northwestern in 1965 as Sports Information Director. He later served as News Bureau

Director and assistant to the president and has been vice president of External Affairs for more than 30 years.

He was co-chair of Northwestern's Centennial celebration and 125th anniversary activities and has served as institutional representative to the NCAA and Southland Conference. He is a former president of the conference and was Northwestern's liaison for the filming of "Steel Magnolias."

Pierce brought the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame to Natchitoches in 1972 and directed the program for nearly 20 years. During that time, he was named one of the 20 "Most Influential People in Sports in Louisiana" by The Times-Picayune.

Author of thousands of newspaper and magazine articles and a book of columns and co-editor of two other books, Pierce has received numerous journalism awards and honors

for other civic, social and professional activities.

He has been inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and N Club Hall of Fame.

Pierce and his wife Regina have established endowed scholarships in athletics and education at NSU. Together, they have four children, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Smith is president and chief executive officer of FedEx Freight, the market leader in the less-than-truckload (LTL) industry. He also serves on the Strategic Management Committee of FedEx Corporation, which sets the direction for the FedEx enterprise. FedEx Corporation employs more than 450,000 team members worldwide and uses nearly 700 airplanes and 189,000 motorized vehicles to deliver 15 million shipments every day in more than 220 countries. FedEx Corporation reported \$69 billion in revenue in Fiscal Year 2019.

Smith has more than 30 years of experience in the transportation industry and joined FedEx in 2000. As CEO, he provides strategic direction for all FedEx Freight operations throughout North America.

continued on page 4



LONG PURPLE LINE

— • HALL OF DISTINCTION • —

NSU honors 2020 Long Purple Line inductees continued from page 3

Prior to his current role, Smith most recently served as the senior vice president of operations for FedEx Freight. His experience spans every area of the business, including operations, sales, transportation, fleet maintenance, facility services and safety.

Smith serves on the boards of the Arkansas Trucking Association and the American Transportation Research Institute and was named treasurer of the board for the American Trucking Associations in October 2019. He graduated from Northwestern State University with a degree in geology.

Smith was a four-year starter on the Demon football team as an offensive tackle. He was a two-time All-Louisiana selection and a pre-season All-Gulf Star Conference choice. He was the winner of the Demon Award given to the outstanding offensive lineman.

Whitehead was a member of Northwestern State's faculty for 30 years, serving as an associate professor of journalism and director of International Programs. He served as an advisor for various student media, providing training to students preparing for a professional career. He also oversaw the university's Distinguished Lecture Series, which brought numerous leading figures to campus.

A strong advocate for preserving Northwestern State's

history, Whitehead co-authored the book "Northwestern State University at 125" which was published in 2009. He led efforts to make the university's past more accessible through its Traditions website, which showcases digital collections of the university's student newspaper, yearbook and alumni magazine and information on alumni honorees, past presidents and historic campus buildings.

Whitehead worked as a production location consultant for the film "Steel Magnolias." He also worked as a local contact and executive assistant to the film's producer Ray Stark. Whitehead was a co-author of the "Steel Magnolias Scrapbook."

One of the leading experts on Natchitoches Parish artist Clementine Hunter, Whitehead worked on documentaries and co-authored and edited books about Hunter.

He is active in local historic preservation organizations and served on the Louisiana Film and Video Commission, the board of directors of Friends of Louisiana Public Broadcasting and the national advisory council of Kappa Alpha Order social fraternity. He is a member of the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi and the Honor Society of Phi Eta Sigma.

Since retiring from NSU, he was worked as a governmental affairs and special events consultant.

Brown selected commanding officer of Expeditionary Support Unit ONE



Brown

Commander Patrick W. Brown, a native of Slidell and a 1999 graduate of Northwestern State, was selected to be the U.S. Navy's Commanding Officer of Expeditionary Support Unit ONE in Coronado, California.

Brown is qualified as a Surface Warfare Supply Corps Officer. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service

Commendation Medal, four Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the Army Achievement Medal as well as various unit and campaign awards. He has been awarded the Saint Christopher Medal for esteemed Transporters and is a member of the Royal Order of Saint Christopher. Brown was the recipient of the 2017 Lieutenant General John D. Bruen Award for SDDC Field Grade Officer of the Year.

He earned a degree in business administration at Northwestern State. Following a commissioning through Officer Candidate School in June 2000, he completed Supply Officer training at the Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, Georgia. In 2012 he earned his Master of Business Administration from Seattle University through the Supply Corps' 810 Postgraduate Education Program.

Brown's operational tours include Supply Officer aboard USS Donald

Cook (DDG-75) in Norfolk, Virginia, and Disbursing/Sales Officer aboard USS John S. McCain (DDG-56) in Yokosuka, Japan.

His shore assignments include Chief of International Movement Operations at Commander, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), USTRANSCOM at Scott AFB, Illinois; Logistics Information Technology and Scan Eagle Sustainment, Portfolio Manager at Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, California; Contracting Officer Representative (COR) Training Program Coordinator, 401st Contracting Support Brigade, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; Fleet Freight Routing Officer, Commander, Logistics Forces NAVCENT (CTF-53) Manama, Bahrain; and NAVTRANS Intern at Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

He is a member of the Defense Acquisition Corps and is fully Joint Qualified.

Huntoon recognized as 2020 LPB Louisiana Legend

Dr. Carolyn Leach Huntoon, scientist and first woman to serve as director of NASA's Johnson Space Center, was named a 2020 Louisiana Legend by Friends of Louisiana Public Broadcasting and was honored at the annual LPB Louisiana Legends Awards Gala and Auction. The event honors the best and brightest of Louisiana's sons and daughters who have distinguished

Huntoon graduated in 1958 from Leesville High School and earned an undergraduate degree in 1962. She earned a master's and Ph.D. at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Huntoon was appointed director of the Johnson Space Center in Houston in January 1994, the first woman to direct a NASA center. Before being selected for this position, she served as the center's director of Space and Life Sciences, a position she held since 1987. She managed and directed medical research and operations for all manned space flight missions for life science experiments.

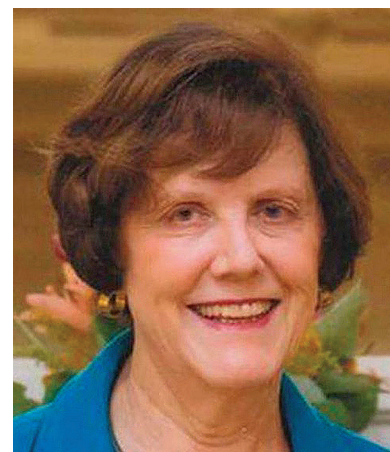
Huntoon served Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton as the Department of Energy's assistant secretary for Environmental Management, a Senate-confirmed position. As assistant secretary, she oversaw the cleanup of 113 nuclear sites in 30 states and one territory. She managed

seven DOE field offices, including the Savannah River site.

After retiring from government service, Huntoon became an independent consultant in the fields of energy and aerospace. She advises both government and the private sector on the proper disposal of radioactive nuclear wastes, as well as the physiological responses to space travel.

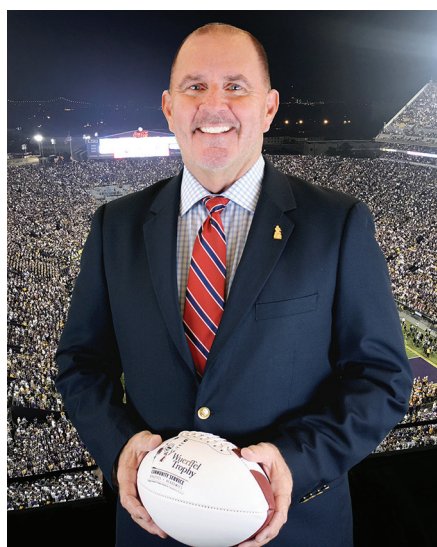
She is a fellow in the American Astronautical Society, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and the Aerospace Medical Association. She is a recipient of the Russian Yuri Gagarin Medal, which recognizes her work in space biology and medicine. She holds the S. P. Korolov Medal from the Russian Cosmonautics Federation for her work in shaping the Shuttle-Mir program.

Huntoon was included the inaugural induction class of the Long Purple Line, NSU's alumni hall of distinction, in 1990.



Huntoon

Brassell honored with All Sports Association HOF induction



Brassell

Tom Brassell (1979) was inducted into the All Sports Association's Hall of Fame in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, on Feb. 5, joining members that include Derrick Brooks, Danny Wuerffel, Don Sutton, Roy Jones, Jr. and others.

"It is a big honor for me as I'll be inducted alongside Dr. Charlie

McFarland who brought Special Olympics to Florida in 1999 and made his life's mission helping special needs athletes and the Special Olympic Games," Brassell said. "I'm certainly not being inducted because of any athletic ability, but because of what I've done in the community and being a part of something special in college football."

Brassell earned a degree in business administration and was a member of the Demon golf team. He mentioned Dr. David Townsend in the business department as an influential individual who "instilled a lot of confidence in me that I could be someone special. Also, my golf coach, Dr. Derwood Duke, was so good to me. I've stayed in touch with him over the years and there is no way I would have been at Northwestern State without Coach Duke."

Brassell began his career in oil and gas accounting from 1980-84 before going into sales and sales management with Control Data Corporation, Compass Bank and Edwin

Watts Golf. He was part of a volunteer team that formed the Wuerffel Trophy, a national football award, in 2005 and in 2013, he was led to take over as full time executive director. The Wuerffel Trophy is an award given annually to the college football player who best combines exemplary community service with athletic and academic achievement.

"It's such an honor to represent an award that spotlights what great community service these young men are doing. I am truly blessed," Brassell said. "NSU was, and still is, a big part of my life's story and you guys seem genuinely interested in how your alumni are doing out in the world."

More information on Brassell can be accessed at <https://www.wuerffeltrophy.org/executive-director>.



Spotlights



Robin Bullock (1995)

was named as the Allen ISD superintendent of schools. The board voted unanimously to officially hire Bullock as Allen ISD's leader in January following the state-required waiting period. She was named as the lone finalist for the position in December and was previously named acting superintendent in October.

Bullock has served as Allen ISD deputy superintendent and assistant superintendent since 2013. She previously served as the deputy superintendent for Midlothian ISD as well as the interim superintendent. She also held positions as assistant middle school principal, elementary school principal, middle school principal and director of personnel for Midlothian ISD.

She began her education career as a 7th grade language arts teacher and coach in Red Oak ISD in 1995. She also taught language arts and coached in Eufaula, Alabama and Duncanville before joining the Midlothian ISD staff in 2000.

Bullock earned a bachelor's degree at Northwestern State and a master's degree at Troy State University in Alabama. She received her principal and superintendent certifications from the University of Texas at Arlington and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in educational leadership at Dallas Baptist University.

She and her husband Randy live in Allen and have two children, ages 17 and 14.

to being the superintendent at Bandelier, Lott also serves as the NPS New Mexico state coordinator. Recent honors include being the recipient of the 2018 Leadership Los Alamos' Distinguished Alumnus Award and the 2011 NPS Intermountain Region Director's Award.

Lott is a 20-year veteran with the Army National Guard, having served 10 years as an enlisted soldier with a deployment during Desert Storm, and as an officer who served as a company commander for the 1086th Transportation Company during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. He retired as a captain in 2007.

Lott holds a master's degree in history with an emphasis in cultural resource management from Northwestern State. He and his wife, Wendy, and their two children are residents of Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways preserves the free-flowing Current and Jacks Fork Rivers, the surrounding resources, and the unique cultural heritage of the Ozark people.

Stewart Ewing (1973)

was appointed to the board of directors of Ribbon Communications Inc, a global software leader in secure and intelligent cloud communications, effective March 1. Ewing has nearly three decades of financial leadership in the telecommunications sector.

Ewing most recently served as executive vice president and chief financial officer of CenturyLink, Inc. He joined CenturyLink as vice president of finance in 1983 and assumed the role of chief financial officer in 1989. During his 28 years as CFO, he played a significant role in CenturyLink's acquisition strategy, negotiating all stages of purchase agreements, legal and regulatory matters and integrating the acquired companies into CenturyLink's corporate structure and philosophy.

Ewing began his career at KMPG in 1973. He serves on the board of directors of Progressive Bank and is chairman of its audit committee. He has been active with several non-profit organizations, including the Monroe Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Northeast Louisiana, Northeast University of Louisiana at Monroe, Northwestern State University, Wellspring, ARCO and Northeast Louisiana Soccer Association, which he helped found.

Ewing earned his undergraduate degree in business at NSU. In 2017, Ewing was NSU's spring commencement speaker and was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters.



Jason Lott has been selected to serve as the acting superintendent of Ozark National Scenic Riverways. He began the 120-day assignment in January while a new permanent superintendent is sought.

Lott, superintendent for Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico, has been with the National Park Service (NPS) since 2002. He

previously served as the superintendent for Casa Grande Ruins National Monument in Arizona for three years, and as the resources program manager for Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park in Texas for five years, where he was named the 2005 recipient of the NPS Director's Award for Natural Resource Management in a Small Park. In addition



The YWCA of Alexandria-Pineville honored **Jimmie Nelle Adams Lewis (1960)** during the Decades of Women Celebration for her work in restoring the historic sawmill commissary in Tioga.

Lewis graduated from Tioga High School in 1957 and earned a bachelor's degree in education, married, had two sons and began her teaching career. Her master's degree qualified her to take on the

internship of student teachers and guiding new teachers became her greatest love.

After 20 years in the classroom, the Louisiana Department of Education hired Lewis as a technical assistant in the SPUR program, a role that allowed her to work with teachers to improve how they taught reading. To complete her career, she returned to Rapides Parish as instructional supervisor, travelling to elementary schools in central Louisiana to assist and evaluate teachers, write grants and implement special programs. She retired in 1995, but not for good. After her career in education ended, she replaced it with another love: historic preservation.

Lewis was instrumental in forming the Tioga Historical Society in 2001, the group responsible for saving the historic Tioga Commissary, which reopened in 2009. In recent years, the site has played host to reunions, parties, weddings, family and civic and community gatherings. An old locomotive and caboose have since been added.

Lewis says the commissary is once again the center of Tioga activity and calls the endeavor "a dream of one – a victory for many."

Briana Methvin (1990) a first-grade teacher in Centre, Kansas, was recognized as Teacher of the Year by the Tri-County Chamber of Commerce in Herington, Kansas. Centre Superintendent Susan Beeson, who presented a plaque to Methvin, described her as "the sweetest, most kind, loving person we know."

She went on to emphasize the importance of the work Methvin does in laying the groundwork for children's academic success. Methvin has taught first grade for 10 years, was a pre-kindergarten teacher for three years, and taught kindergarten and fourth grade for one year.

"What I love the most about first grade is teaching my students to read," she said. She has also learned how to incorporate technology into her classroom.

Methvin grew up in Louisiana, graduated from Northwestern State and taught junior high students for one and a half years. She moved to Kansas in 1992, when she

married Brent Methvin. After being a stay-at-home mom to four sons, she returned to teaching at Centre in 2007. Her husband is a rancher.

"Briana is one of the special people gifted to Centre School, to love, nurture, and teach the very youngest of learners in preparation for a life of success," Beeson said.

Aleisa Hudlow, band director at Natchitoches Central High School, was recognized by the District II Band Directors' Association as the 2020 Band Director of the Year. She was recognized at the District II BDA Honor Band Concert in January and will serve as one of the honor band conductors in 2021.

Hudlow earned a bachelor's degree at NSU in 2007 and a Master of Music in 2019. As an undergraduate, she was a member of several music ensembles, including the Spirit of Northwestern where she served as drum major in 2006. She has worked in Texas and throughout Louisiana, where her ensembles have regularly received superior and excellent ratings in assessments.

Hudlow is in her third year as band director at Natchitoches Central High School. In her time at NCHS, the band has participated in marching competitions, solo and ensemble festivals, concert and sight-reading festivals and community parades.

She and husband Dr. Adam Hudlow have two children, Jack and Lily.

SAVE THE DATE *Greek Centennial Celebration*

NORTHWESTERN STATE



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April 9, 10, & 11, 2021

Fezell earns DOE appreciation for establishing artificial intelligence office

Dr. Rodney Fezell (2002) was presented the Department of Energy's Secretary's Appreciation Award by Secretary Rick Perry for work done to establish the DOE Artificial Intelligence and Technology Office (AITO). The secretary established the office to serve as the coordinating hub for the work being done across the DOE enterprise in artificial intelligence. This action has been taken as part of the president's call for a national AI strategy to ensure AI technologies are developed to positively impact the lives of Americans.

The AITO mission is to elevate, accelerate and expand DOE's transformative work to accelerate America's progress in AI for years to come.

Fezell is a native of Montgomery. After earning his bachelor's degree at NSU, he graduated from Baylor University where he earned a Ph.D. in chemistry. He resides in Virginia with his wife Monica and children Noah and Sophia and serves as the head of Technology Integration Division, Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C.



Rodney Fezell (right) accepts the Secretary's Appreciation Award from U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry



ICU nurse Wells recognized with Daisy Award for helping save a life

Stephen Wells was recognized with a Daisy Award for helping save the life of a man who collapsed in the parking lot of a shopping center in Alexandria last year. Daisy Awards are presented to honor nurses for extraordinary and compassionate care. Wells is a registered nurse at Rapides Medical Center Intensive Care Unit.

Wells, with the help of a state trooper and his son who also happened to be in the parking lot and the manager of a nearby store, began CPR and assisted the man until medics arrived, then assisted the EMS team in stabilizing the patient. First responders put the man on a ventilator and took him to Cabrini Hospital.

"I didn't tell anybody about it. But later someone at Cabrini contacted Rapides and my director asked me about it and why I didn't say anything. I was just in the right place at the right time."

Wells, who graduated from Vidalia High in 2010, and now resides with his wife, Kendra, and two children in Pineville, attended Northwestern State and spent five years as an LPN while going to nursing school.

Rapides Regional Medical ICU manager Curtis Hilton expressed pride in Wells' action.

"Many nurses spend time imagining what he or she would do if a situation presented itself like this," Hilton said. "Stephen was heroic on that hot summer day in a store parking lot. He sprang into action without hesitation and put his knowledge and compassion on display, living up to what we all hope we can be. His knowledge, compassion and humility were instrumental in saving a young man's life."

Wells, who works the night shift, was honored last November at Rapides Regional with he and his wife's family members on hand, as well as Rapides employees.

Alumni Gentry, Thornton inducted into La. Political Hall of Fame

NSU alumni **Robert Gentry** of Many and **Deano Thornton** of Winnfield were inducted into the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame Feb. 15.

Gentry enrolled at Northwestern to study journalism in 1958 and joined the *Natchitoches Enterprise* covering politics. In 1960, he moved to the *Natchitoches Times* and started a news, views, facts and opinion column called "Ballyhoo." As a student, Gentry walked and hitchhiked the entire region to cover any candidate or elected official who spoke in the area. He caught a

ride one evening with Gov. Earl Long, which resulted in his being placed in Gov. Long's employ as a public relations man. He became editor of *The Sabine Index* in Many in 1964, continuing a strong political focus for almost 50 years as owner/publisher. Gentry and staff earned almost every type of Louisiana Press Association award and in 2014, Gentry joined the LPA's "50 Year Club."

Gentry founded Rebel State Historic Site in 1961, presenting 50 years of political and country music functions.

Gentry is married to the former Laurie Sky and is father to four daughters - Angela, Jody, Amber and Verity - and has six grandchildren.

Thornton was born in Malvern, Arkansas, but was raised and currently resides in Winnfield. After graduating Winnfield Senior High School, he went on to obtain a business administration degree at Northwestern State in 1977. His political career began when, in 1985, he was elected as Winnfield City Marshal and re-elected six years later. At the age of



Deano and Theresa Thornton

38, Thornton was elected as mayor for the City of Winnfield and became the only Winnfield mayor elected to serve four consecutive terms. Thornton has served on the Winn Democratic Executive Committee since 1979 and was awarded Winn Parish Outstanding Young Business Man in 1986 and Winn Parish Outstanding Young Man in 1988. Currently, he is the chairman of Uncle Earls Hog Dog Trials and the founder and CEO of Winn Community Health Center Inc. and Trinity Community Health Centers of Louisiana.

He and Teresa Ingles Thornton have been married 42 years and have two children, the late Barry Thornton and Mallorie Thornton Gardner. He is also a doting Pop to granddaughter Madelyn.



Robert Gentry's family joined him for the induction program. From left are daughters Amber Gentry of Zwolle, Jody Gentry of Rock Hill, South Carolina; wife Laurie Gentry, Robert Gentry and daughters Angela Collins of Tega Cay, South Carolina and Verity Gentry of Shreveport.

Spivey recognized as business leader, role model in Shreveport-Bossier

Britney Burton Spivey earned two special honors recently and was recognized by both the Greater Shreveport Chamber Business Development Connection and the Bossier Chamber of Commerce.

Last November, Spivey, owner of Simply Chic Boutique, was listed among ATHENA Leadership Award winners, which recognizes individuals for attaining professional excellence, community service and for actively assisting women in their achievement of professional excellence and leadership skills. By honoring exceptional leaders, the ATHENA Leadership Award Program seeks to inspire others to achieve excellence in their professional and personal lives.

This past January, Simply Chic Boutique was named Bossier Chamber's 2019 Small Business of the Year for their commitment to the community and innovative retail strategies.

Spivey is a 2007 Northwestern graduate. Since her first store opened in her hometown, Bossier, Simply Chic has opened doors in Shreveport, Mandeville, Natchitoches and Baton Rouge.

Spivey said she and her husband are growing their family and finding work/life balance with three active boys.

"I think what most inspires me in working in women's retail is the chance to love on other women. I lost my mom at 9 years old and have been so blessed by multiple women who have taken me under their wing and loved on me during different important times in my life. My brother and I have really been so blessed by the loving communities we have grown up in, Bossier and Natchitoches. Our goal is to hopefully return some of the love and support that has been shown to us. Whether it be our employees or our customers, we really do want everyone to feel appreciated and special when they are at Simply Chic."



50th Anniversary of President's Home features 2nd Edition of Cookbook

NSU First Lady Jennifer Maggio is commemorating the 50th anniversary of NSU's Arnold R. Kilpatrick President's Home this year. The home was completed in 1970 and has served as residence for seven NSU presidents.

In conjunction, Maggio is introducing the second edition of "In Good Taste," the popular cookbook produced by the Campus Women's Organization in 1989.

The Arnold R. Kilpatrick President's Residence faces Chaplin's Lake on the east side of NSU's main campus. The one and one-half story structure reflects the French colonial style in keeping with the popular architecture of early Louisiana. The front of the home features six Doric columns similar to those that supported the east gable of the famous Bullard mansion that was constructed in 1832 on the oldest part of the campus. Three of the original Bullard columns still stand and have become a symbol of the university.

Natchitoches architects Oscar G. Butler and E.P. Dobson, Jr. designed the NSU President's Residence, which was constructed by Builders Service Inc. of Natchitoches at a cost of \$125,000. Funds for the home were obtained through revenues generated by the oil and gas holdings at Nicholls State University. President's homes at several universities were constructed or renovated with those revenues that were earmarked for the specific purpose of buildings and maintaining homes for presidents of state colleges. Prior to the construction of the home, NSU's President's Residence was what is now the Alumni Center, a 1928 Tudor home on University Parkway that was home to eight NSU presidents.

The Arnold R. Kilpatrick President's Residence has 6,178 square feet of floor space that includes a living room, formal dining room, den, breakfast room, kitchen, utility service area, guest suite, family room, three bedrooms, four baths, fireplaces and other features.

The home was built during the tenure of Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Kilpatrick, who served as president and first lady of the university from 1966-1978. It was named in Dr. Kilpatrick's honor during the university's 125th anniversary celebration in 2009.

The current first family, Dr. Chris and Jennifer Maggio and their children Melanie, Scott and Emily, have lived in the residence since 2017 and utilize the house for entertaining campus and civic groups, hosting receptions and special events and for family gatherings.

As part of the celebration, NSU's Campus Women's Organization is offering the second edition of "In Good Taste," which features an updated cover design by NSU's retiring director of publications Beth Mann and recipes from recent first ladies Brenda Webb, Tonia Henderson and Jennifer Maggio. NSU alumna Cheryl Gianforte designed the original cover and produced the drawings found within the cookbook.

"Thirty years ago, the NSU Campus Women's Club created the cookbook, 'In Good Taste.' This was the heartfelt labor of so many NSU faculty, staff and alumni. It is full of amazing recipes. I received the cookbook as a wedding gift many years ago. You can see which recipes are my favorite by the food stains on the pages. We hope to continue the legacy of the Campus Women's Club with this 2nd edition printing."

The cookbook is available for purchase online at <http://www.northwesternstatealumni.com/ingoodtaste/> at an introductory cost of \$25 with a \$3 shipping and handling fee. Proceeds will support scholarships for students.



The Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Kilpatrick family moved into the President's Home in 1970.

Watson Library hosts exhibition of vintage Shreveport photos discovered by Ed Chopin

NSU's **Cammie G. Henry Research Center** featured an exhibit of photographs depicting business and industry in Shreveport in 1918. "A Glimpse of Shreveport," discovered, organized and curated by NSU alum Ed Chopin, ran January-March giving viewers an unstaged look at the working side of the city a century ago.

At the opening reception, Chopin discussed how he rescued the collection from the trash while helping friends move out of their house in the early 1970s. The pictures were part of a large scrapbook created by the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce to bring more business to the city. There were originally 400 photos in the book but many were lost before Chopin discovered the scrapbook.

"It's phenomenally interesting to look at working conditions 100 years ago," Chopin said. "The things I recognized and appreciated were the lack of safety equipment, blacks and whites working together side by side and the children at work."



"A Glimpse of Shreveport" was discovered and curated by NSU alum Ed Chopin, center. He is pictured with NSU's Assistant Archivist Sharon Wolff, left, and his wife Michelle Packard Chopin, right, during an opening reception Jan. 23.



Ed Chopin

The Shreveport Chamber of Commerce has no records of how or why the book was created other than to highlight the progressiveness of the city. Notes in the scrapbook boast of 37 miles of paved roads in the city, information on rail lines, infrastructure and manufacturing capabilities.

Chopin worked with NSU Assistant Archivist Sharon Wolff to install the collection.

"The candid nature of the pictures makes them a unique and valuable window into everyday working life, both blue and white collar, in the early 20th century," Wolff said.

Chopin earned a degree in industrial education with a minor in journalism at Northwestern State in 1971 and a master's in industrial technology in 1978. He retired after teaching 46 years in public schools and at Bossier Parish Community College. His wife, Michelle Packard Chopin, is a 1978 NSU graduate.



Reatha Cox, director of Student Affairs at Northwestern State University, was named **Outstanding Staff Member of the Year** during the third annual University of Louisiana System's For Our Future Conference that took place on University of Louisiana – Monroe campus last week. Cox was honored for more than 30 years of service and dedication to NSU students. The UL System is comprised of nine universities, including Northwestern State, with a collective enrollment of about 92,000 students. **Dr. Jim Henderson**, UL System president and an NSU alum, presented the award. About 500 delegates from all nine universities attended the conference, which focused on innovation, integrity and inclusion.



McCord Scholarship will benefit female sports journalism student

The Northwestern State University family came together in grief following the tragic loss of alumna **Carley McCord**, a well-known sports journalist and digital media reporter who was one of five people killed in a plane crash in Lafayette Saturday, Dec. 28. Friends remembered McCord as a remarkable and involved student who stayed in touch with her NSU family and was a devoted Demon supporter.

McCord, 30, earned a degree in journalism at NSU in 2011. As an undergraduate, she worked in NSU's Recruiting Office for four years where she was a Student Ambassador and gave tours to prospective students.

McCord was a member of Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority. A talented vocalist, she was crowned Miss Northwestern-Lady of the Bracelet in 2010 when her fellow contestants voted her Miss Congeniality.

McCord was a frequent visitor to Northwestern State and supported the NSU Foundation as a Columns Fund member. Following her death, her family and Tri Sigma alumnae began working NSU Development staff to create the Carley McCord Memorial Scholarship that will be awarded to a female student pursuing a career in sports journalism.

McCord was a Baton Rouge native who followed her older sister Kaleigh McCord Pederson to Northwestern State. She worked as a digital media reporter for the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches and was the in-game host for the New Orleans Saints and the New Orleans Pelicans.

The group on the twin-engine plane was traveling to Atlanta to attend the Peach Bowl, where McCord's father-in-law Steve Ensminger Sr. would help coach the LSU Tigers to a win. Because of the connection to LSU, as well as McCord's vast network of friends and colleagues in media, news of the tragedy traveled quickly and initiated an outpouring of love and support to the McCord and Ensminger families. As of press time, donations to the scholarship exceeded \$100,000.

To make a contribution to the Carley McCord Memorial Scholarship, visit <http://www.northwesternstatealumni.com/donations/carley-mccord-memorial-scholarship>.



Friends, colleagues respond to Chadick Professorship

A professorship honoring the memory of **Dr. Stan Chadick**, a member of the Northwestern State University faculty for 37 years, has almost reached fulfillment, according to faculty in NSU's Department of Mathematics.

Chadick's colleagues in the department, who established the professorship last year to honor the memory of an outstanding teacher, mentor and friend, announced that only \$3,000 remain to reach the goal of \$80,000 that will be matched with \$20,000 from the Board of Regents to create a \$100,000 endowment. Income from the endowment will be awarded to a professor in the department who will carry on Chadick's legacy of working with mathematics teachers at all levels.

Chadick, a professor emeritus, passed away in 2017. During his tenure at NSU, he served as a full-time faculty member, head of the Department of Mathematics and the first director of the Louisiana Scholars' College. He was the curriculum coordinator at the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts at the school's inception where he helped develop the curriculum and supervised the 45 teachers at LSMSA during the first two years.

Information and an online portal for giving are available at <http://www.northwesternstatealumni.com/donations/stan-chadick-endowment/>.

Gifts can also be mailed to the NSU Office of University Advancement, Development Office, Natchitoches, LA 71497.



Dr. Stan Chadick



Dr. Cathy Seymour and Jacqueline Horton created a scholarship at Northwestern State University in memory of their parents, Annie E. and Hoyt J. Reed. From left are Drake Owens, executive director of the NSU Foundation; Drs. Danny and Cathy Seymour, Jacque and Herschel Horton and NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio.

Reed Scholarship will be awarded to upper-level teacher candidates

The daughters of **Annie E. and Hoyt J. Reed** have endowed a scholarship honoring their parents to be awarded to a Louisiana native junior or senior level or graduate students majoring in teacher education or educational leadership at Northwestern State University. Applicants for the Annie E. and Hoyt J. Reed Scholarship must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and work in a public school or institution of higher education in Louisiana.

Applicants should complete an online application form and attach a 250-word essay indicating teaching and personal goals in the field of education. Applications will be reviewed by the family-named scholarship committee and will be awarded for a maximum of two semesters at \$500 per semester.

The Reeds are parents to Dr. Cathleen Reed Seymour, who holds three degrees from Northwestern and retired from NSU as the associate dean in the College of Education, and Jacqueline Reed Horton, who holds two degrees from NSU and is an instructor in the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development in child and family studies. Their son-in-law, Dr. Dan Seymour, also hold two degrees from NSU, served in various administrative roles including vice president of Student Affairs, and now teaches as an associate professor in community mental health counseling and student affairs in higher education in the Gallaspy Family College of Education and Human Development.

To contribute to the Annie E. and Hoyt J. Reed Scholarship or to learn more about the NSU Foundation, visit northwesternalumni.com or call (318) 357-4414.

Downing Endowed Professorship fulfilled, will be matched by state

Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Coutee established the Dudley Downing Endowed Scholarship in Education in 2006. When the Board of Regents extended the matching gift program for master's degrees, NSU requested family and friends to donate as well. The goal was to fund the scholarship to \$60,000.

Thirty-six additional donations were made to assist in these efforts. In 2019, Mr. and Mrs. Coutee's generous donation met the goal to create the Dudley Downing Distinguished Graduate Endowed Scholarship in Education. The NSU Foundation applied for the match in January 2020.

The fulfillment of the Dudley Downing Endowed Scholarship in Education will make the third distinguished graduate endowed scholarship at Northwestern, following the G. Stanley Lewis Endowed Scholarship in Special Education and the Allen and Mary Lee Posey Endowed Scholarship in Education.

Alumni riding high on coaching success, making Demonland proud

The two biggest games of the 2019 NFL and college football seasons were sources of pride for the Northwestern State football program.

In one, the spotlight shined brightest on a native Louisiana son who, with some help from a piece of his past, helped lead a team through tragedy to a national title. In the other, another N-Club Hall of Famer was a behind-the-scenes part of a franchise that exorcised a half-century of heartbreak en route to a Super Bowl championship.

For Ed Orgeron, Bill Johnson and Barry Rubin, the 2019 season was a memorable one that shared a central tie – Northwestern State University.

Orgeron's LSU Tigers captured their first national championship of the College Football Playoff era, going 15-0 in producing one of the most remarkable seasons in college football history. A 2014 N-Club Hall of Fame inductee, Orgeron had some good fortune come his way out of a possibly tumultuous situation.

When former NSU football graduate assistant Dennis Johnson injured both of his knees in a pickup basketball game, Orgeron found himself in need of a defensive line coach.

Enter Bill Johnson, a 2007 N-Club Hall

of Fame inductee and one of the most respected defensive line coaches in both the NFL and college football. Less than a month before the start of the college football season, Bill Johnson was speaking to the Demon football team as they reported for fall camp.

With Dennis Johnson unable to coach, Orgeron turned to Bill Johnson, who was a member of the Northwestern State coaching staff during Orgeron's NSU playing career.

The marriage between the pair played a pivotal role in the Tigers' defense overcoming several early-season injuries to become a more-than-competent complement to LSU's record-setting offense.

Orgeron and Bill Johnson also were key in helping the LSU and Northwestern State families heal following the tragic death of former NSU Miss Lady of the Bracelet Carley McCord in a Dec. 28 plane accident outside Lafayette. McCord's father-in-law, Steve Ensminger, is LSU's offensive coordinator, and he coached alongside Orgeron in LSU's Peach Bowl victory against Oklahoma just hours after learning of McCord's death.

Orgeron's and Johnson's triumph segued into the NFL playoffs where Barry

Rubin's Kansas City Chiefs celebrated their first Super Bowl championship in 50 years, using a second-half rally to down the San Francisco 49ers, 31-20, in Super Bowl LIV on Feb. 2.

Rubin has been alongside Kansas City head coach Andy Reid since 2008 when Reid was the Philadelphia Eagles head coach.

Rubin was promoted to Philadelphia's head strength and conditioning coach in 2010 and stayed there until moving with Reid to Kansas City ahead of the 2013 season.

A 2014 N-Club Hall of Fame inductee alongside Orgeron, Rubin and the Chiefs fell a step shy of the Super Bowl a season ago as the New England Patriots came back to stun Kansas City on its home turf in the AFC Championship Game. Behind one of the brightest young starts in the NFL, quarterback Patrick Mahomes, Rubin and the Chiefs finally saw the franchise bring home its first Lombardi Trophy since Super Bowl IV a half century ago.

The Chiefs' victory not only ended decades of heartbreak in Kansas City, but it also capped a 20-day run in which a trio of Northwestern State alums found themselves at the epicenter of football in America.

United by grief, Demon family perseveres amid losses

"Punches being thrown from the sky." That is how assistant softball coach Brooke Boening described on Twitter the news of former Northwestern State defensive lineman Wade Williams' death in a plane crash in Jackson Parish Feb. 6. Williams' death was the third suffered by someone with ties to the Northwestern State football team since Dec. 28 and the fourth since former Demons defensive back Manuel Mukes IV was slain in Los Angeles on Aug. 18, 2019.

The plane crash that took the lives of Williams and two other passengers came just five days after the death of longtime Northwestern State coach and former student-athlete Johnnie Emmons. It came less than two months after NSU alumna and Cox Sports Television and WDSU reporter Carley McCord perished in a Dec. 28 plane crash and almost six months after Mukes was shot and killed in California.

Current Demon defensive line coach LeDell Love lined up alongside Williams for two seasons.

"We weren't just teammates. We were in the same position meeting room. I finished the year before Ricky [Isaac, who was killed in a December 2012 traffic accident while on duty as a Natchitoches Parish sheriff's deputy] and two years before Wade. We all three lined up and played alongside each other. It's just tough because those are guys you've been around. There's a deeper love you have for those guys. It's tough to lose them, but even tougher with the way it happened."

That sentiment pervades the Northwestern State athletic department and its culture.

News of Williams' death spread as many members of the NSU football staff and athletic department gathered at Emmons' funeral services, continuing to challenge the emotional stability of a staff that has lost three alumni under the age of 31 since August.

That span began with the loss of Mukes, a defensive back who lettered from 2014-16.

"I had Mukes in my position group," said Defensive Backs

DUF reaches milestone thanks to Perpetually Purple donors

Because of the largesse of NSU athletic donors living the spirit of community and charity, the Demons Unlimited Foundation hit a milestone late last year, surpassing \$2 million in endowed scholarships for NSU student-athletes.

A record round of donations on Giving Tuesday helped the DUF pass its most recent fundraising goal while year-end giving officially pushed the total past the \$2 million mark.

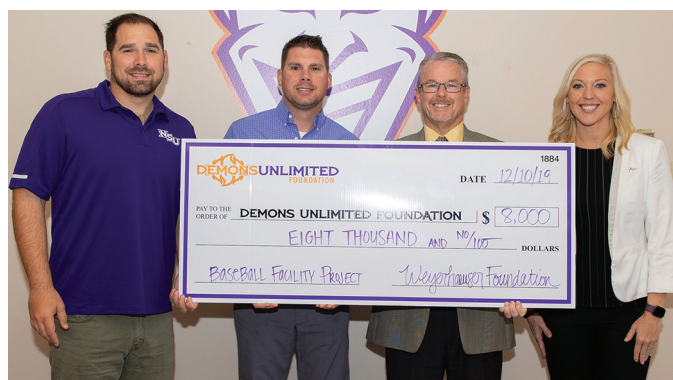
"Our donors really answered the call, first with Giving Tuesday and then with scholarship donations, which pushed us over our initial \$2 million total endowment goal," said Dr. Haley Taitano, NSU Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs. "They were quick to go beyond their normal donations to their respective scholarships after our last appeal, and their thrilling response helped us surpass a goal we were approximately \$15,000 away from."

The Perpetually Purple Endowment Program provided the DUF with a roadmap to the \$2 million endowment goal, a level that again will increase with the donations that pushed the total past the \$2 million landmark.

Annual gifts and fundraising events for NSU Athletics are imperative, but development of the Perpetually Purple program is equally important. Revenue generated from endowed gifts and scholarships improves the NSU athletic program and Northwestern State coaches, staff and student-athletes benefit yearly from the athletic endowment.

Currently there are 60 permanently endowed (more than \$10,000) athletic scholarships for Northwestern State athletics and another 21 working toward full endowment.

"The long-term goal is \$5 million, so this is a major milestone to keep us headed in that direction," Taitano said. "We are so appreciative of each and every donor who truly exhibits that they are 'Perpetually Purple.'"



Weyerhaeuser Winnfield Area Manager Peyton Weeks, second from left, presented a check from the Weyerhaeuser Foundation to Northwestern State head baseball coach Bobby Barbier, NSU Director of Athletics Greg Burke and NSU Associate Athletics Director for External Affairs Dr. Haley Taitano. For the better part of two decades, the Weyerhaeuser Foundation has provided periodic support of Northwestern State athletics. The two paired up again as the Weyerhaeuser Foundation provided an \$8,000 grant to the Demons Unlimited Foundation for use in completing the Brown-Stroud Field renovation project.



Coach De'Von Lockett, who spoke at Mukes' funeral service in Baton Rouge. "That was one of the toughest speeches I ever had to give. I didn't know what I was going to say, but I knew what type of person Manny was. He was a guy who also believed in the Word. A lot of times, we see guys out of context, and we don't understand what they're going through from a spiritual standpoint. Most people misunderstood Manny Mukes, but he was a spiritual person."

"What you've seen is a family that comes closer together during tough times, and these are tough times," said Head Football Coach Brad Laird. "We want to ask, 'Why?' The things we can take from a Manny Mukes, a Carley McCord, a Johnnie Emmons, a Wade Williams and the lives they lived, is to have fun and enjoy every day. Don't take one day for granted. As coaches, starting with me, we can share that with our team to enjoy the process, enjoy where they are and make good memories along the way."



Wade Williams (87) touches "The Link" before a 2011 game.

Looking Back



The presentation of Miss Potpourri and her court highlighted the "Snowball" as the 11th annual Potpourri Ball was called in 1955. "Amid swirling snowflakes, Janie Meyer accepted the title of Miss Potpourri. She and the court were selected by Potpourri staff on the basis of leadership, personality and service to the school. The entire staff is proud to have her bear the title of the Northwestern yearbook. Presented as her court were Joan Evans, Nancy Kimbrell, Mona Grey Miller, Jean Noble and Aldicie Thompson."

The NSU community supports #GoNatchitoches, backs local businesses



With the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) now declared a global pandemic, we cannot help but to think of our local businesses and business owners. We believe in the power of the Natchitoches community to support each other during these times and comply with the current social distancing recommendations. Visit natchitocheschamber.com/local to learn more.



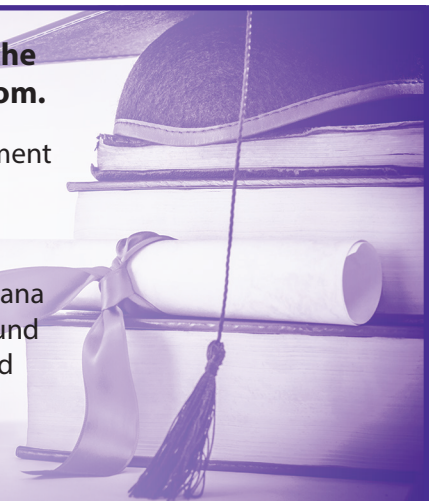
ENVELOPE

Support your college or department of choice by using the enclosed envelope or go online at NorthwesternAlumni.com.

The NSU Foundation invites you to support the school or department that gave you your start.

Whether you are a graduate of the College of Nursing and Allied Health, College of Education and Human Development, College of Business and Technology, College of Arts and Sciences or the Louisiana Scholars' College, support for your program or department helps fund academic programming, professional development, technology and innovation.

Thank you!



In Memory

1938 – Lucy Cornelia Dupree Robinson,
Feb. 10, 2020, Rayville

1951 – Johnnie Emmons, Feb. 1, 2020,
Natchitoches

1951 – Averille Rachal Hewitt,
Jan. 20, 2020, Shreveport

1955 – Gloria Gray Garner, Dec. 28, 2019,
Shreveport

1957 – Doris Rogé, Feb. 17, 2020,
Cloutierville

1957 – Willard Theodore Booty,
Mar. 4, 2020, DeQuincy

1958 – Donald G. Walker, Oct. 1, 2019,
Swartz

1959 – Bryant Lewis, Dec. 17, 2019,
Haynesville

1960 – Mary Lea Hoffpauir, Mar. 10, 2020,
Natchitoches

1961 – Larkin Cathey Jr., Jan. 20, 2020,
Shreveport

1963 – John E. Martin, Feb. 10, 2020,
Natchitoches

1966 – Kay Austin McElwee,
Jan. 4, 2020, Coushatta

1970 – Thomas D. Rethard Jr., Jan. 13, 2019,
Salt Lake City, Utah

1970 – Claudia Moore Triche, Jan. 9, 2020,
Natchitoches

1971 – Larry M Hall, Jan. 19, 2018,
Baton Rouge

1971 – Steve Wiggins, Feb. 21, 2020,
Natchitoches

1973 – Jimmie McGlothlin, Feb. 17, 2020,
Haughton

1991 – Ledgeress Bryan, Jan. 5, 2020,
Natchitoches

1993 – Louis Lowrey, Feb. 11, 2020,
Natchitoches

2011 – Todd Chasteen, Feb. 20, 2020,
Pensacola, Florida

2011 – Carley McCord, Dec. 28, 2019,
Baton Rouge

2012 – Wade Williams, Feb. 6, 2019,
Bossier City

2017 – Manuel Mukes IV, Aug. 18, 2019,
Baton Rouge

James T. "Babe" Huff, Jan. 2, 2020, Ferriday

Orie Floyd Williams, Dec. 18, 2019,
Fairview-Alpha

Louis Fair Hyams III, Nov. 30, 2019,
Baton Rouge

Marshall Martin Hearne III, Feb. 1, 2020,
Creston

Robert Gerald Martin, Feb. 6, 2020,
Natchitoches

Carolyn Ann Buckley Aldredge,
Feb. 27, 2020, Natchitoches



Guess Who

When the 1969-70 Potpourri went to press, the Demon gymnastics team was well on its way to filing another record season. The NSC gymnasts compiled victories over the University of Western Illinois and LSU-NO. Two of the gymnasts pictured with their coach above travelled with international gymnastics teams. Can you name them? Email the answers to jacksonl@nsula.edu and include your city of residence and year of graduation.



The Winter 2020 Guess Who featured winners in the 1979 Lady of the Bracelet Pageant. They were, front row from left, Jennifer Grappe, second runner-up, and Karen Murphy, first runner-up. Pictured on the back row were Shelly Wiggins, third runner-up, Miss Lady of the Bracelet Zine Curlee and Kay Hedges, fourth runner-up.

Those who guessed correctly were as follows:

Ron St. Aubyn (1980), Shreveport
Leigh Wood Jonson (1981, 1984), Winnsboro
Chris Soileau (1981), Denham Springs
Jackie Dees Domingue (1980), College Station, Texas



Thank You!

NSU would like to thank the alumni who generously opened their homes or businesses to host our recruiting receptions. Thank you to Ricky (1985) and Julie (1989) Walmsley of Covington, Malcolm (1971) and Johellen Maddox of Monroe, A.J. (1998) and Lauren (1998) Kennedy of Baton Rouge, Keith (1992) and Daniella Poirrer of Lafayette, Clint (2002) and Kathryn (2002) Sanford of Lake Charles, Gene (1963) and Martha Koury (2011) of Leesville, Dave and Jill (1993) Morrison of Dallas, Mike Knotts (1986) of Bossier City, Gerald (1977) and Lisa (1990) Savoie of Shreveport, Jimbo Thiels (1973) of Alexandria and Judge Desiree (1997) and Dan (1977) Dyess of Natchitoches.